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Member draws attention to the fact that chilli does not come under that category. It is not a perishable article. Probably on that account it has not been exempted."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Hon. Minister examine and see that no sales tax is imposed on essential food articles? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It is a very large question. That is not under consideration now."

Flood havoc in Cuddalore.

* 272 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Cuddalore is being subjected to havoc by floods every year; and

(*b*) if so, what measures the Government propose to take to avoid damages thereby to lives and properties of the people therein?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) No. Cuddalore is subjected to floods during the years when there are excessive rains lasting several days or a series of successive storm periods that cause floods.

" (*b*) A proposal for forming a system of flood banks to protect Cuddalore town from floods was initiated in 1947, but it was deferred in 1951 on account of the poor finances of the State at that time. The proposal has since been revived and the Government are awaiting a report from the Chief Engineer."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" வெள்ளத்தடுப்பு வேலையைக் கவனிப்பதற்கு மத்திய சர்க்கார் 10 கோடி ரூபாயில் ராஜாங்கங்களுக்கு ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட ரூபாய் எவ்வளவு என்று சொல்ல முடியுயா ? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில் ஏற்படக்கூடிய வெள்ளத் தடுப்பு வேலையை உடனடியாகக் கவனிப்பதற்கு இரண்டாவது ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டத்தில் இதைச் சேர்க்க முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" This is a question being considered by this Government. The report of the Chief Engineer is awaited. The question of including it in the Five-Year Plan or otherwise will be considered afterwards."

Repairs to Tiruvendipuram anicut in South Arcot district.

* 273 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation in or about October 1954 in regard to repairs to the Tiruvendipuram anicut in South Arcot district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?